

Please see **2 IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS** below regarding: 1) REMINDER: Fall 2013 Michigan Interim Assessment Pilot, and 2) Smarter Balanced Practice Tests Now Available.

1) REMINDER: Fall 2013 Michigan Interim Assessment Pilot

The Bureau of Assessment and Accountability (BAA) is pleased to offer another opportunity to participate in the Michigan Interim Assessment Pilot for science and social studies for grades 3 through high school, and offer for the **first** time an opportunity to participate in the Michigan Interim Assessment Pilot for grades K-2 in the subjects of English language arts (ELA) and mathematics. When operational, these new interim assessments will be online, pre-post assessments given at the beginning of a grade/course and end of a grade/course. These operational assessments may also be used as one possible measure of student growth.

This is a reminder that we need your school's participation in the Michigan Interim Assessment in grades 3 through high school for science and social studies, and in K-2 for English language arts (ELA) and mathematics and recruitment is happening now. The **Fall 2013 Michigan Interim Assessment pilot testing will take place in October 28 through December 6, 2013.**

Please see chart below for minimum technology requirements when considering participation:

Minimum Technology Requirements for Student Testing Devices	
Apple	Windows
MAC OS X 10.6 – 10.8	Windows XP, Vista, 7, 8, Server 2003 and 2008
512 MB RAM	512 MB RAM
800 x 600 screen resolution	800 x 600 screen resolution
100 MB hard disk space	100 MB hard disk space
1 GHz processor	1 GHz processor
Neither tablets (iPad/Android) nor Chromebooks will be supported for this pilot.	

NOTE: THIS IS NOT THE INTEREST SURVEY FOR ONLINE MEAP TESTING

To participate in the **Michigan Interim Assessment pilots**, please complete the application at <http://tinyurl.com/interimpilotapp>. Districts may have several buildings participate but each building must register with a separate application. **Applications must be completed by Friday, June 14, 2013.**

For more information regarding the interim assessments, please contact BAA at 1-877-560-8378, or contact:

Interim Assessment Contacts		
Elementary (K-5) Erika Bolig 517-241-6397 bolige@michigan.gov	Secondary (6-12) Kim Young 517-373-0988 youngk1@michigan.gov	Technology Matt Ayotte 517-335-4643 ayottem@michigan.gov

2) Smarter Balanced Practice Tests Now Available

As previously announced, the Smarter Balanced Practice Tests for grades 3 through 8 and 11 in English language arts and mathematics were made available on May 29, 2013. These tests provide an early look at sets of assessment questions aligned to the Common Core State Standards. The release of these Practice Tests follows the Smarter Balanced Pilot Test, the first large-scale tryout of items and performance tasks, conducted February – May 2013. The Practice Tests can be accessed at: http://sbac.portal.airast.org/Practice_Test/default.html. Information about the Practice Tests, including technology requirements (such as compatible web browsers), available accommodations, frequently asked questions, and a user guide are available on the main Smarter Balanced webpage (www.smarterbalanced.org) under the heading “Latest News.”

There are no login credentials needed for the Practice Test and it can be taken by anyone. The purpose of the Practice Test is to provide exposure to the variety of item types that will be on the operational tests and for users to become familiar with the format and navigation; however, the Practice Tests do not represent an entire “blueprint” for any grade level or content area standards so scores cannot be calculated or feedback given for Practice Tests.

The Practice Tests will remain available during the summer months. Additional upgrades, such as the availability of limited accommodations at all grade levels, and compatibility with the Internet Explorer browser will be forthcoming. We will keep you updated as additional functionality becomes available in the Practice Tests. If you have questions about the Practice Tests, we direct you first to the manuals, user guides, and classroom activities documentation available at: http://sbac.portal.airast.org/Practice_Test/resources/PracticeTestUserGuide.pdf. If you are unable to find an answer to your question, please send an email detailing your question and we will continue to update the frequently asked questions document with these questions and answers.

Questions?

For assessment questions, please email baa@michigan.gov.

For accountability questions, please email MDE-Accountability@michigan.gov.

For phone assistance with assessment or accountability issues, call 877-560-8378 and select the appropriate menu option.